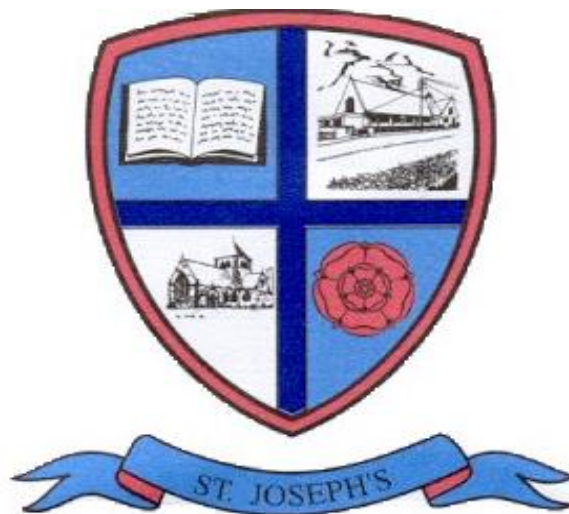


# **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**Reviewed: October 2020  
To be reviewed: October 2022**



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wrightington Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship is an important aspect of Religious Education. Each day the children take part in a Collective Worship, whether it is in small groups in class, in Key Stages or as a whole school. Collective Worship is an ideal opportunity to celebrate. Celebrations are an essential part of life for people of every age and faith. Collective Worship consists of varying elements such as gathering and greeting, listening, reflecting, responding through community praise, especially in song, prayer and of course the children's own work and ideas.

Each class at St Joseph's will lead a Whole School Collective Worship in the Autumn and Spring terms. Each class celebrates 'Stay and Pray' each half term. We invite parents, grandparents and parishioners.

Our young person's Faith Group, The Mini Vinnies lead worship that they choose the theme, prayers, readings and hymns and then write and lead them.

In the Summer Term, we celebrate pupils who have received the Sacraments this year in a special school celebration. The Year 6 leavers' also celebrate their time at St Joseph's with a 'Thanksgiving Collective Worship' held in school. Of course throughout the year we celebrate many Feasts and Holy days of the Catholic Church.

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider Spiritual and Moral issues, and to explore their own beliefs.

Collective Worship must aim to encourage participation and response through:-

- ❖ Active involvement in the presentation of Worship;
- ❖ Listening to and joining in the Worship offered;
- ❖ Developing community spirit;
- ❖ Promoting a common ethos and shared values;
- ❖ Reinforcing positive attitudes.

Collective Worship and Assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, however, be related to the day to day life, hopes and concerns of the school.

Collective Worship must take into account the religious and education needs of all who are involved in it:

- ❖ those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- ❖ those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- ❖ those from other Christian traditions;
- ❖ those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of a school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in a Catholic School, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from Worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to “collective worship” rather than “corporate worship”. (Education Reform Act 1988 s.6(1))

#### The Aims of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. The following aims underpin our Collective Worship:

- ❖ to enrich the religious experience of children and staff;
- ❖ to reflect on or respond to spiritual and moral issues;
- ❖ to enable and encourage a sense of belonging;
- ❖ to reinforce positive attitudes;
- ❖ to build a firm foundation for liturgy;
- ❖ to develop community spirit;
- ❖ to reflect on personal belief;
- ❖ to contemplate something of the mystery of God;
- ❖ to enrich the religious experience of children and staff;
- ❖ to experience awe and wonder;
- ❖ to take time out;
- ❖ to encourage a common ethos and shared values.

#### What might Collective Worship look like?

Collective Worship in our school can take many forms:

- ❖ It can be led by pupils, staff or visitors to school;
- ❖ It can be offered for a class, a year group, a key stage or for the whole school;
- ❖ It will contain a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, candles, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or a short address;
- ❖ It will have an appropriate theme, focus, delivery length and use appropriate resources which match the age range, backgrounds and ability of the participating pupils;
- ❖ There will be a focus provided by artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting;
- ❖ It will respect the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship;
- ❖ It will set an appropriate atmosphere;
- ❖ It will encourage the engagement and participation of all present;
- ❖ It will make the link between faith and everyday life;
- ❖ It will help to promote a common ethos and shared vision;
- ❖ Full participation will be modelled by the adults present;
- ❖ It will be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- ❖ It will develop, in our pupil's, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead Worship.

The process of Collective Worship requires the following components to be planned:

- ❖ **Gather:** How will we begin? How will I create an atmosphere of prayer?
- ❖ **Word:** What will be the scripture focus and how should it be presented?
- ❖ **Response:** What will we do in response to listening to God's Word e.g. prayer and symbolic action.
- ❖ **Going Forth:** What will I do to help the pupils take the message away with them?

In order to encourage participation and engagement; Collective Worship should;

- ❖ be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2);
- ❖ be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings;
- ❖ take place in a variety of settings.

#### **Where can Collective Worship take place?**

- ❖ In a classroom - "Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them." (Mt 18:20)
- ❖ In the open- "Heaven and earth are full of your glory." (Roman Missal)
- ❖ In Church - "Praise God in His holy place." (Ps150;1)
- ❖ In the School Hall - "With gratitude in your hearts, sign psalms ,hymns and spiritual songs to God." (Col 3:16)

As a rule all acts of Collective Worship should take place on the school premises. However the Governing Bodies of grant maintained, aided and special arrangement schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions. (*Liverpool Archdiocesan Christian Education Department.*)

#### **When can Collective Worship take place?**

Collective Worship should take place at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants. It is important to note that every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day.

The RE subject Leader will ensure that Collective Worship in our school will be:

- ❖ Properly planned;
- ❖ adequately resourced;
- ❖ recorded;
- ❖ monitored;
- ❖ evaluated.

#### **Provision of Collective Worship:**

##### **Whole School Collective Worship:**

The whole school meets together for Collective Worship once a week. This will be led by the Head Teacher, a class teacher or a class.

##### **Class Collective Worship:**

Is led by the class teacher (or a group of children in upper KS2) 2/3 times a week.

##### **Buddy Collective Worship**

Is led by The Mini Vinnies. Children under the guidance of SL will plan and deliver Worship to classes and groups of children.

Parents/Families are invited to attend School Masses, assemblies and 'Stay and Pray' Worship throughout the year.

#### **The Planning, Recording and Reporting of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship will be planned with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum and with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

It will be evaluated by staff and pupils with reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible.